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CIA/PIR-5030765

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NIEN-TZU-SHAN ARMAMENTS PLANT NO. 123

An explosives processing and loading plant with associated metallurgical and fabrication facilities is located at Nien-tzu-shan, which lies approximately 40 nautical miles west of Ch'i-ch'i-ha-erh. along the Chinese Changchun Railway, which connects northeastern China with the Trans-Siberian Railway. Armaments Plant No. 123 extends east and north from the east edge of Nien-tzu-shan for a distance of approximately 2.5 nautical miles. The approximate geographic coordinates of the southwest corner of this plant are 47 31N - 122 53E (see figures 1 and 2).

This installation has been divided into four sections, lettered A through D, on the basis of function and actual physical separation within the large secured area (see figures 3 through 5). Descriptions of areas in each section are keyed to numbers on figure 3.

Section A. Buildings in this portion of Plant No. 123 consist mostly of types used in metals processing and as shops.

- (1) Warehouses, open storage, and a few small probable shop buildings
- (2) Power substation
- (3) Area containing administration and support buildings for this plant
- (4) Probable metallurgical area with possible metal refining and alloying facilities, forge and foundry buildings, a large building containing probable metal presses for stamping or punching parts, and fabrication or machine shop type buildings
- (5) Piles of coal and waste adjacent to probable metallurgical area

The probable purpose of this section is to refine, alloy, and fabricate metal parts of the munitions section. Because of the extensive facilities present, additional metallurgical type work may also be accomplished in this area.

Section B. This section of Armaments Plant No. 123 is made up mostly of machine shops, forges and foundries, and fabrication type buildings.

- (1) Large warehouse with probable facilities for shipping and receiving of materials, rail served
- (2) Forge/foundry area with probable boiler house
- (3) Series of four large fabrication/machine shop type buildings, also including possible heat treatment or foundry operations
- (4) Area containing warehouse and shop buildings

This section is a general metal-working and fabrication area. It appears to be a complete plant, not necessarily related to armaments production. Any type of machinery or equipment could be manufactured in a plant of this general design and layout.

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Section C. This separately secured portion of the plant consists mostly of heavily revetted and protected structures. An area containing warehouses and open storage, a small administration and support area, and a probable boiler house with adjacent piles of coal and ash is also present.

- (1) Administration and service buildings
- (2) Boiler house with coal pile along nearby rail line and a large ash pile
- (3) Area of general warehousing with some open storage, rail served
- (4) Group of small revetted buildings, probable service magazines for the nearby loading operations
- (5) Probable buried water line
- (6) Area of unidentified structures, possibly not connected with the plant operation, the building nearest the munitions plant may be used for storage
- (7) Possible initiator processing and loading area
- (8) Two possible high explosive processing lines
- (9) Large probable loading line, possibly for melt loading
- (10) Three similar revetted or partially revetted buildings, probable component loading lines
- (11) Building possibly used for final assembly of the various shell components.

Section C. consists of several complex apparent explosive processing areas and loading lines. The probable function of this area is the production of various types of munitions from explosives manufactured elsewhere.

Section D. This section is made up of thirty-six storage buildings divided into four groups. Twenty-six of these buildings are revetted and dispersed, while the ten buildings in the south portion of this area are dispersed but not revetted. An additional small unidentified building is present near building group 3.

The function of this area is the storage of high explosives for use in the explosives processing and probable munitions loading plant (Section C.), and probably for storage of finished ammunition prior to shipment.

Test Facilities - Two separate testing areas located in this region are probably associated with the Nien-tzu-shan Munitions Plant No. 123.

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A. Ballistics Test Facility - A secured ballistics testing and experimentation facility is located approximately 4 NM south-southeast of Plant No. 123

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(figures 6 and 7). Included at this installation are firing ranges, [ ] facilities which are possibly for testing of individual shell components, revetted explosive storage magazines, a boiler house, and administrative and possible storage buildings.

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B. Munitions Test Installation - A probable munitions test facility, approximately 5 NM north-northeast from Plant No. 123, is located on a well maintained road leading from the plant. This installation is unidentified as to type. However, its general appearance suggests an elaborate munitions test site (figures 8 and 9).

Features present at this site include explosive storage magazines, administration and service buildings, an elaborate appearing test facility, possible cable trenching, and several unidentified structures.

25X1D Construction was in progress at this site in [redacted] Additional ground scars are apparent on later coverage. However, on all later photography, the scale is either too small or the quality too poor to tell whether the site has been completed or not.

Level of Activity

25X1D A. Construction Activity - Construction at Nien-tzu-shan Plant No. 123 has been of a fairly minor nature between [redacted] when the first good coverage was obtained and [redacted] when the latest satellite photography of this installation was made.

25X1D The only apparent change in Section A of this plant has been the addition of one warehouse type structure in Area 1 of this section. In Section B, minor changes include the addition of a building in Area 2 near the boiler house. Excavation was in progress at this location in [redacted] The long rail served warehouse in Area 3 of Section C, which was under construction in [redacted] 25X1D [redacted] now appears complete. Two smaller but similar appearing structures have been erected in this same area since the date of earliest coverage. In an apparently separately secured area within this section, adjacent to the main fence line, near 25X1D the location where the probable buried water line enters the plant, two small unidentified buildings have been erected. No changes have been observed in the main processing area of Section C during the period of photographic coverage. No 25X1D apparent change has taken place in the explosives and munitions storage area during this period of time. Some new ground scars are noted at the test site north-northeast of the plant, since [redacted]

25X1D B. Level of Production Activity - On photography of [redacted] activity at the Nien-tzu-shan Armaments Plant No. 123 appears to be at a moderate level. Although, only three of eighteen stacks are emitting visible fumes, several trucks and numerous other small unidentified vehicles are visible on the well maintained roads in the plant area, six rail cars are on a siding in the munitions production area (Section C), considerable amounts of materials are apparent at several locations, and two large coal piles are present. Roof stains and two large waste piles showing on this photography, indicate that at least a portion of the plant had been in operation for some time.

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No changes in the level of activity are apparent on later coverage. However, the small scale and poor quality of material since this earliest good photography precludes an accurate estimate of productive activity.

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Smoke or steam visible in [ ] from several points within the plant, two probable locomotives present on coverage of [ ] and some materials present in open storage areas indicate that the plant has probably been active throughout this period. No estimate of the number of rail cars or other vehicles in the plant could be made, nor could changes in the configuration of coal or waste piles be determined on any of the more recent photography.

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Probable vehicles are present at both test areas on [ ] photography. No indication of the level of activity could be determined at either of these sites from later coverage, except the previously noted additional ground scars at the test site north-northeast of the plant.

Because of the plant layout and building configurations, it appears that Nien-tzu-shan Armaments Plant No. 123 includes an explosives loading operation, probably for both propellants and bursting charges. The lack of visible tanks, pipes, and acid production units makes the manufacture of explosives at this installation unlikely. The elaborate nature of the test site north-northeast of Plant No. 123 indicates that possible research and development in fairly sophisticated weaponry fields is occurring. Very extensive metallurgical and metal working facilities present in this installation indicates that work in addition to the manufacture and fabrication of metal components of shells is possible.

All measurements have been made by the CIA/IAD/IB project analyst. They should be considered as approximate and must not be taken as official NPIC mensuration data compiled by the Technical Intelligence Division, NPIC.

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REFERENCES

PHOTOGRAPHY

25X1D

MAPS OR CHARTS

General Locator Map, China - 38936 12-63 (UNCLASSIFIED)  
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1st edition, October 1959 (SECRET)

REQUIREMENT

CIA. C-SI5-82,609

CIA/IAD PROJECT

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PIR - [REDACTED]

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COMMUNIST CHINA

NIEN-TZU-SHAN ARMS AND AMMUNITION PLANT #1

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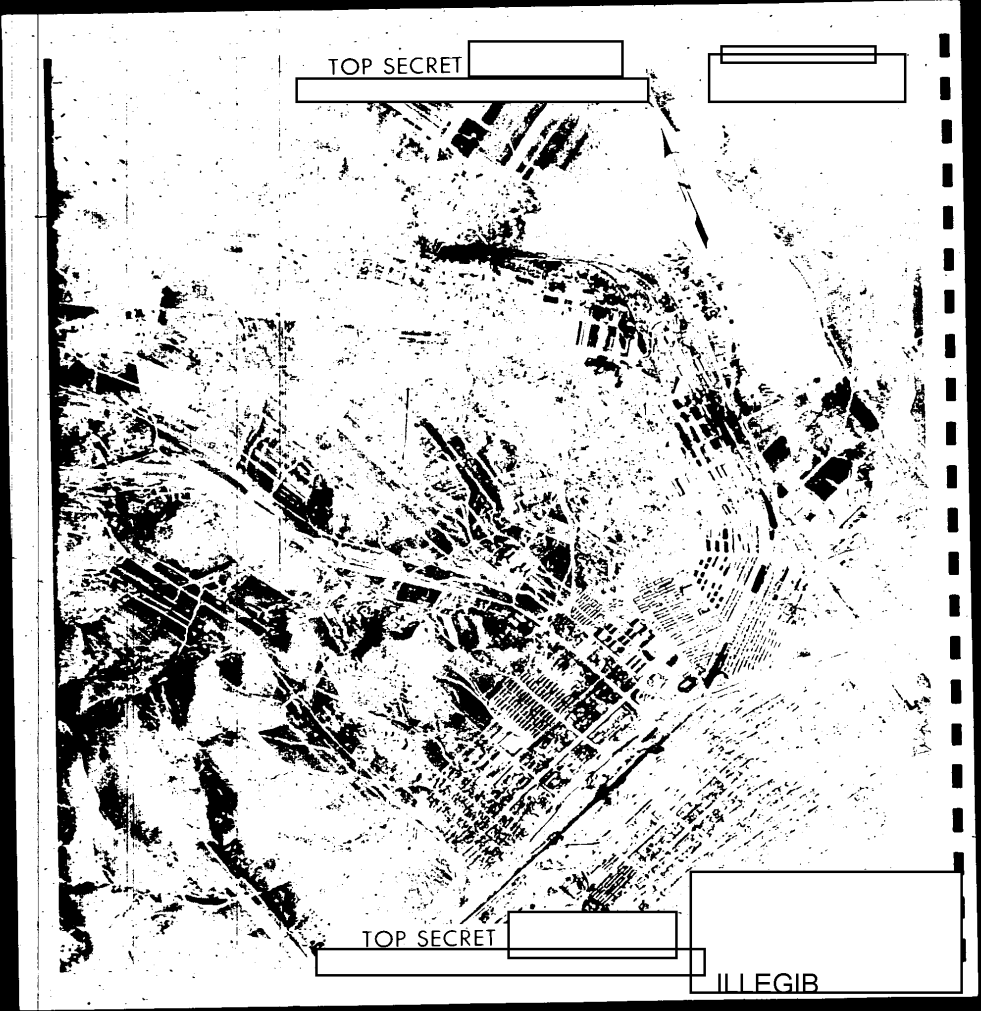
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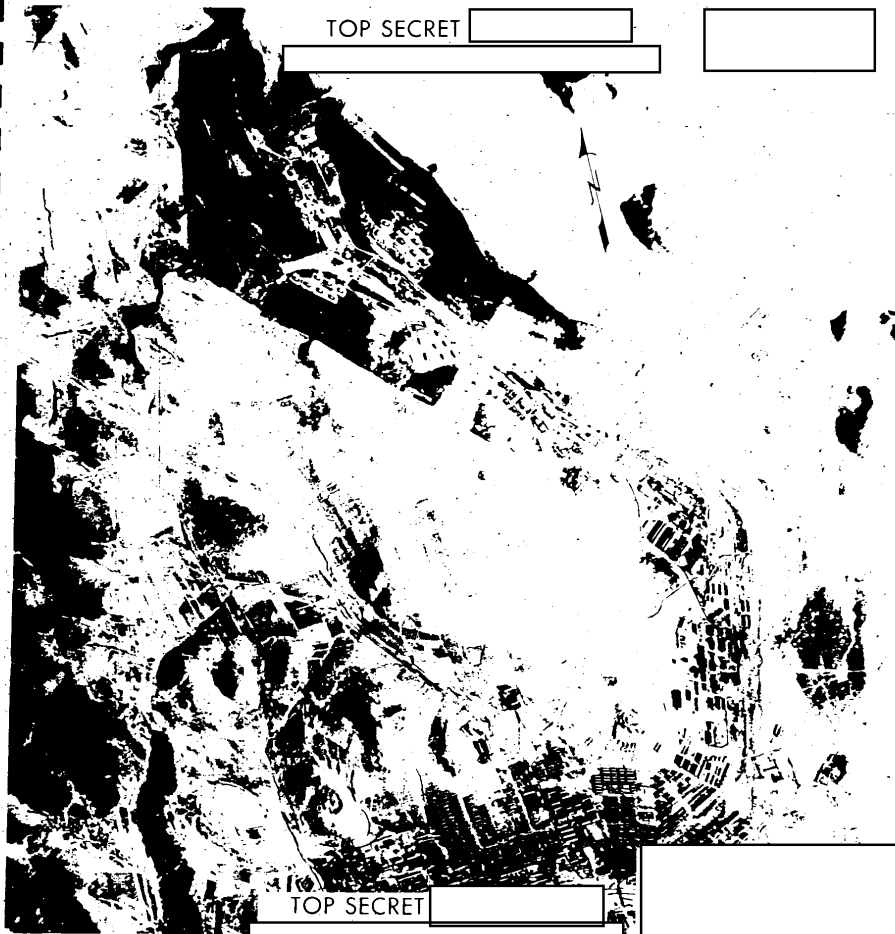
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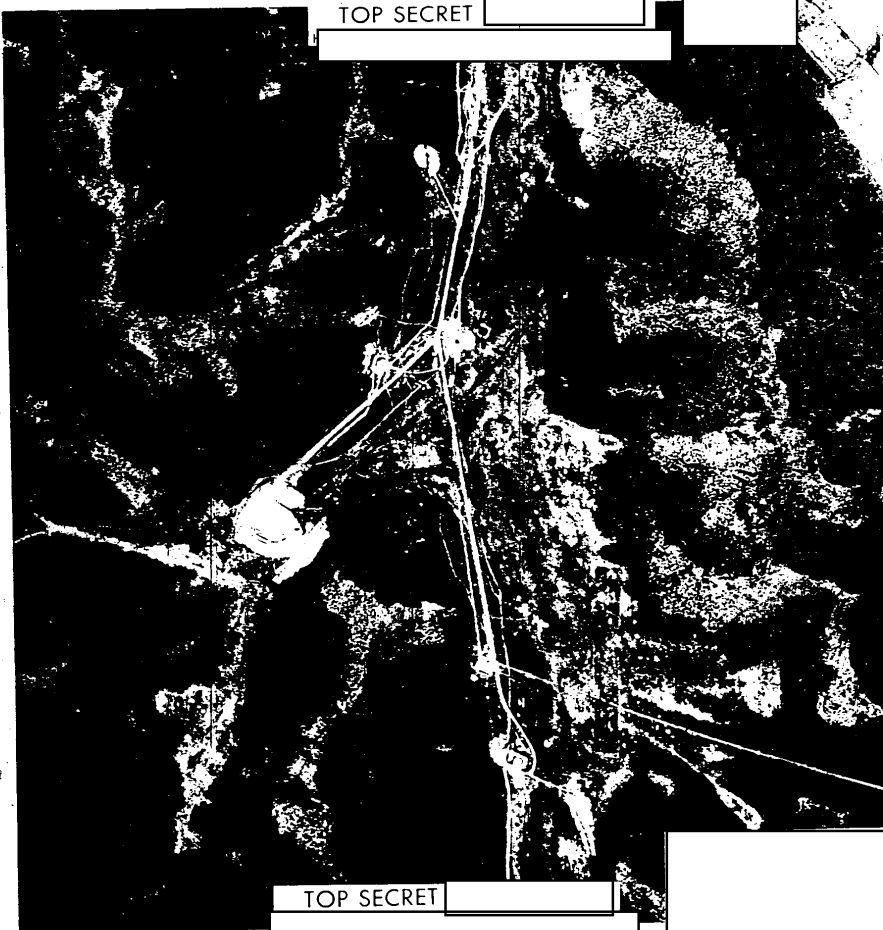
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